

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 522, wherein each of said flexible web elements are interposed between an adjacent two of said retaining elements.
3. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 522, wherein each of said retaining elements is constructed and arranged to engage the container for retention purposes.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) ~~A tamper evident closure according to claim 4,~~ A tamper evident closure, comprising:
  - a body portion comprising a base and a downwardly depending sidewall portion; and
  - a tamper evident band frangibly connected to said sidewall portion, said tamper evident band comprising:
    - a main band portion;
    - a J-hook retention member that is oriented in a first molded position that is substantially beneath and in alignment with said main band portion of said tamper evident band, said J-hook retention member extending continuously about an entire circumference of said tamper evident band;
    - wherein said J-hook retention member comprises a plurality of flexible web elements, wherein at least one of said flexible web elements has a ventilation opening and a predetermined crease line defined therein;
    - wherein said J-hook retention member further comprises a plurality of retaining elements, at least some of said retaining elements being constructed and arranged to engage a container to

which said closure may be mounted in order to retain said tamper evident band on the container when said body portion is removed from the container; and a plurality of flexible web elements, and said flexible web elements being sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially compressible from said first molded position and a second engaged position wherein said retention member is bent upwardly and inwardly to engage the container for retention purposes;

wherein at least one of said flexible web elements is shaped so as to have a predetermined crease line about which said web element will begin to fold as said J-hook retention member is circumferentially compressed; and

wherein said flexible web element is shaped so that said predetermined crease line is positioned radially inwardly from the nearest retaining element, whereby said flexible web element will be caused to fold radially inwardly as said J-hook retention member is circumferentially compressed.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 21~~5~~, wherein a plurality of said flexible web elements have a ventilation opening defined therein.

8. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 21~~5~~, wherein said ventilation opening is defined in an upper portion of said flexible web element that is proximate to said main band portion of said J-hook retention member.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) ~~A tamper evident closure according to claim 9,~~ A tamper evident closure, comprising:

a body portion comprising a base and a downwardly depending sidewall portion; and

a tamper evident band frangibly connected to said sidewall portion, said tamper evident band comprising:

a main band portion;

a J-hook retention member that is oriented in a first molded position that is substantially beneath and in alignment with said main band portion of said tamper evident band, said J-hook retention member extending continuously about an entire circumference of said tamper evident band;

wherein said J-hook retention member comprises a plurality of flexible web elements, wherein at least one of said flexible web elements has a ventilation opening and a predetermined crease line defined therein;

wherein said J-hook retention member further comprises a plurality of retaining elements, at least some of said retaining elements being constructed and arranged to engage a container to which said closure may be mounted in order to retain said tamper evident band on the container when said body portion is removed from the container; and a plurality of flexible web elements, and said flexible web elements being sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially compressible from said first molded position and a second engaged position wherein said retention member is bent upwardly and inwardly to engage the container for retention purposes; and

wherein said retaining elements are tapered in their circumferential dimensions so as to narrow at distal ends thereof that are distal to said body portion of said closure ; and

wherein said flexible web elements are inversely tapered with respect to said retaining elements.

11. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22~~5~~, wherein said flexible web elements are sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially dimensionally compressible by at least 10 percent.

12. (Previously presented) A tamper evident closure according to claim 11, wherein said flexible web elements are sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially dimensionally compressible by at least 20 percent.

13. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim ~~22~~5, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 20 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

14. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 13, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 10 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

Claims 15-26 (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim ~~21~~5, wherein said ventilation opening is V shaped.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein each of said flexible web elements are interposed between an adjacent two of said retaining elements.

31. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein each of said retaining elements is constructed and arranged to engage the container for retention purposes.

32. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein a plurality of said flexible web elements have a ventilation opening defined therein.

33. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein said ventilation opening is defined in an upper portion of said flexible web element that is proximate to said main band portion of said J-hook retention member.

34. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein said flexible web elements are sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially dimensionally compressible by at least 10 percent.

35. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 34, wherein said flexible web elements are sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially dimensionally compressible by at least 20 percent.

36. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 20 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

37. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 36, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 10 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

38. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 10, wherein said ventilation opening is V shaped.